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MEMORANDUM

| Date: February 12, 2015

Subject: Summary of 2015 Protocol Changes

Changes in the 2015 Statewide EMS Treatment Protocols removes from Iowa EMS Treatment Protocol, Appendix K. "Assessment Based Spinal Immobilization" and replaces it with a protocol named *Selective Spinal Immobilization*. This assessment protocol is no longer limited to the Paramedic Specialist and Paramedic levels.

The protocol is based upon the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Clinical Guidelines and the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) and American College of Surgeons (ACS) joint position statement. The reference links are included below.

Recent literature has demonstrated little if any benefit from long spine board use. In fact, we may be harming our patients by continued use. The national trend, and evolving best practice, is moving away from the long spine board. It is now felt the patient can be safely transported with adequate spinal protection, and with much less risk for complications, if the patient is directly secured to the EMS cot.

National Association of State EMS Officials
National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines

<http://www.nasemso.org/Projects/ModelEMSClinicalGuidelines/index.asp>

National Association of EMS Physicians
Position Statements

<http://www.naemsp.org/pages/position-statements.aspx>